## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Claims 12, 13, 18, and 19 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at (612) 336.4728.

Respectfully submitted, MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903 (612) 332-5300

Dated: <u>25 August 2003</u>

Gregory A. Sebald Reg. No. 33,280

GAS:hjh